



African Journal of Public Affairs

Volume 7 number 2 • June 2014

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AFRICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (AJPA)

published on behalf of

THE AFRICAN CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (ACPA)

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ISSN 1997-7441

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Mr O Madumo University of Pretoria (Onkgopotse.Madumo@up.ac.za) Tel +27 12 420 5736

PUBLISHER

P O Box 1399
Faerie Glen,
South Africa,
0043
Tel: + 27 12 420 4772/3606/3472/361 5030
Fax: + 27 12 362 5265

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Editorial

Every state is experiencing changes in its political, economic and social environments. Some governments succeed in transforming the challenges faced into opportunities to improve the living conditions of all its inhabitants. However, it seems as though some states succumb to the challenges and fail to maintain even basic services. The situations in many states such as South Africa, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, Spain and Germany also have to contend with large numbers of refugees from African countries entering the country and require public services. Most host countries find it difficult to plan for such refugees as there is no fixed schedule according to which they enter the country. When circumstances become unbearable in a country, people under pressure simply leave and try to enter another country that seems to be more stable. The adopting country, therefore, cannot plan for an influx of large numbers of refugees as it is a totally unknown factor. These newcomers mostly enter urban areas in search of work and put additional pressure on financial resources required for service provision. Additional provision has to be made for services such as water, refuse removal and sanitation, but mostly without additional revenue from the new entrants to the urban area. Governments are then required to redistribute its scarce resources to accommodate the poor new entrants without negating the needs of its own citizens.

Governments who succeed in governing the state honestly and with the needs of society as the primary objective may be able to administer the growing population that does not correspond to its usual projections as indicated by a regular census. However, if a government is prone to corruption and an inefficient and ineffective administrative system, the additional pressure by an unpredictable influx of refugees will not be able to satisfy the growing needs of the new communities that develop. It is important for every state to examine its administrative system and exhibit the required leadership to enforce accountable government and administration to ensure continuous high quality services to all its inhabitants irrespective of whether they are permanent residents or refugees temporarily residing in the country.

The collection of articles contained in the issue of the Journal represents the work of the *Anti-corruption Centre for Education and Research (Accerus)* at the University of Stellenbosch. These articles represent different perspectives on issues related to corrupt practices and factors influencing the effective government and administration of the state. The first article by Khan discusses statecraft in contemporary times and identifies the hurdles experienced when making the road while traveling i.e. making amendments without the possibility of stopping to take stock before proceeding. The second article by Mantzaris and Pillay deals with the complex phenomenon of the political/administrative interface. They attend to the needs for collaborative action between the political and the administrative leadership to curb corruption. It cannot be solved without this cooperation. Pillay identifies integrity leadership in the next article as a requirement for effective administration and identifies the need to find a synergy between good governance and leadership. The following article by Mchunu and Theron focuses on the “good” in local governance and they argue that active citizen participation is a primary requirement for good governance to be entrenched in a system of public administration and management. The issue of ethics and corruption within

public sociology is addressed by Pillay in the next article. In this article she investigates the relationships between human behavioural elements and the concomitant psychological and sociological considerations in public administration. Mantzaris continues in his article on the same theme by investigating public procurement and in particular tendering and corruption. He analyses a number of key elements and processes of the procurement and tendering processes in The South African public sector and the importance of effective budgetary control. In the last article Mantzaris attends to municipal financial management and the requirements to be met to combat corruption and enhance development. This case study emanated from a forensic report and identifies major financial mismanagement at a leading municipality.

C Thornhill
Editor

